

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 SS-15 /026 W
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O 121045Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6138

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 DACCA 5064

STADIS//////////

FOR NEA/PAB COON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, BG
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH SHAMSUL HUQ

REF: STATE 216369

1. IN NEARLY SIX MONTHS IN HIS POSITION AS ADVISOR (I.E., MINISTER) FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SHAMSUL HUQ HAS SHOWN HIMSELF WELL-INFORMED ON ISSUES AND HAS A WIDE RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE ON WHICH TO DRAW. HE WAS THE LEADER OF THE BANGLADESH DELEGATIONS TO THE NEW DELHI NACCA AND TO THE ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN TRIPOLI AND HAS ACCOMPANIED PRESIDENT ZIA ON HIS TRAVELS. WE THUS BELIEVE THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO PRESENT BANGLADESHI VIEWS EFFECTIVELY AND WILL BE RECEPTIVE TO OTHER POINTS THE SECRETARY WILL WISH TO MAKE. AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, HE IS EXTREMELY FRIENDLY TOWARD AMERICANS AND SPEAKS FONDLY AND FAVORABLY OF HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE WOODROW WILSON CENTER.

2. FOOD: WE HAVE BEEN PRESSED BY A WIDE RANGE OF OFFICIALS HERE ON ADDITIONAL FOOD ASSISTANCE AND
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SHAMSHU HUQ IS AMONG THEM. HE WILL NO DOUBT RAISE THIS AND OTHER ASSISTANCE QUESTIONS WITH THE SECRETARY. WE HAVE ASSURED PRESIDENT ZIA, THROUGH THE LETTER FRO PRESIDENT CARTER AND IN PERSONAL DISCUSSIONS, THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO BANGLADESH CONCERNS ON FOOD, BUT THE SECRETARY SHOULD NOTE THAT WE EXPECT BANGLADESH

TO CARRY OUT THE SELF-HELP PROVISIONS OF THE PL-480 AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED EARLIER THIS YEAR. WE ARE CONCERNED WITH THE SLOW RATE OF GROWTH IN FOOD PRODUCTION, AND HOPE THE BDG WILL ADOPT FOOD PRICE AND DISTRIBUTION POLICIES THAT WILL STIMULATE PRODUCTION. FOOD STOCKS NOW ARE GOOD AND THIS IS AN EXCELLENT TIME TO MAKE A MOVE TOWARD BANGLADESH'S STATED OBJECTIVE OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY. WE ALSO SEEK IMPROVED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE BDG AND DONORS ON FOOD IMPORT AND POLICY MATTERS. (OTHER AID MATTERS ARE COVERED IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE COVERING A POSSIBLE MEETING BETWEEN ZIA AND PRESIDENT CARTER.)

3. INTERNATIONAL ISSUES: ALTHOUGH RATHER BELATEDLY, THE THEN CHARGE WAS SUMMONED TO THE MFA TO HEAR A MILD, BUT CLEAR, PROTEST OVER THE REMARKS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF INDIA IN THE REGIONAL CONTEXT. WE SHOULD EXPRESS OUR PLEASURE THAT REGIONAL ISSUES IN THE SUB-CONTINENT ARE MOVING, HOWEVER SLOWLY, TOWARD RESOLUTION AND THIS IS A PEACEFUL AND GENERALLY NOT ACRIMONIOUS FASHION. ZIA'S VISIT TO BURMA AND TABARAK' TO PAKISTAN ARE PART OF THIS. THREE PROBLEMS WITH INDIA REMAIN: (1) BORDER INCURSIONS, WHICH ON THE PRIMARY BORDER SEEM TO HAVE BEEN HALTED BUT CONTINUE IN THE ALMOST UNDERFINABLE BORDER IN THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS; (2) THE FARAKKA BARRAGE ON WHICH

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WE ARE NOT SANGUINE THAT A SOLUTION WILL SOON BE FORTH-COMING; AND (3) THE MARITIME BOUNDARY DISCUSSED IN THE LOS CONFERENCE ON WHICH WE SHOULD FRANKLY INFORM THE BANGLADESHIS THAT WE CANNOT SUPPORT THEIR BASE LINE PROPOSAL WHICH IS AT VARIANCE WITH THE GENERAL AGREEMENT IN SUCH CASES, ALTHOUGH THE SPECIFIC DEAL WHICH MAY BE STRUCK WITH INDIA (AND BURMA) IS A BILATERAL MATTER. IN THIS DISCUSSION, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO MENTION INTERNATIONAL INTEREST IN A LONG RANGE AND WIDE SCOPE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EASTERN RIVER WATERS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 DACCA5064

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FOR NEA/PAB COON

4. THE SECRETARY MIGHT NOTE THE HELPFUL STANCE OF BANGLADESH, SINCE ZIA ASSUMED LEADERSHIP, ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO US IN NAM MEETINGS. THESE INCLUDE KOREA, GUAM, PUERTO RICO, AND THE INDIN OCEAN. SHAMSUL HUQ WOULD WELCOME A RUN DOWN ON THE MIDDLE EAST. BANGLADESH IS BECOMING MORE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (IF FOR NOTK OTHER REASON THAN THE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE RESULTING) AND WILL GO ALONG WITH WHATEVER POSITIONS THE ARABS ASSUME COLLECTIVELY IN THE UN AND ELSEWHERE.

5. TRADE AND INVESTMENT: MFA IS LESS CONCERNED WITH THE DETAILS OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC QUESTIONS. IF, HOWEVER, TSE OCCASION ARISES THE SECRETARY MIGHT MENTION THE URGENCY OF FINAL SETTLEMENT OF NATIONALIZATION CLAIMS OF U.S. FIRMS PENDING SINCE 1972.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS: WE DO NOT THINK HUQ WILL RAISE THIS, BUT, AS IN OTHER MATTERS, THE SECRETARY'S PRESENTATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S VIEWS WILL BE VALUABLE AND INSTRUCTIVE TO HUQ AND, THROUGH HIM TO ZIA AND OTHERS HERE.

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7. NUCLEAR REACTOR: HUQ MAY RAISE THE QUESTION OF AMERICAN SUPPLY OF AN EXPERIMENTAL NUCLEAR REACTOR. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR HERE THAT NEGOTIATIONS CANNOT TAKE PLACE EXCEPT FOLLOWING BANGLADESHI ADHERENCE TO NPT.

8. INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTD: BANGLADESH HAS NOT YET ADHERED TO A WIDE RANGE OF GENERALLY ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS. THE SECRETARY MIGHT URGE SHAMSUL HUQ TO GIVE ATTENTION TO THIS, ESPECIALLY THE VIENNA ACCORDS ON DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR REPRESENTATION.

9. MILITARY MATTERS: WE DOUBT THAT SHAMSUL HUQ
WILL RAISE THIS BUT IF HE DOES THE SECRETARY MIGHT
MENTION THAT WE HAVE BEGUN WHAT PROMISES TO BE A
SUCCESSFUL IMET PROGRAM. OTHER ISSUES, INCLUDING
POSSIBLE AVAILABILITY OF EXCESS NON-LETHAL EQUIPMENT
ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION BUT CANNOT BE ANSWERED
DEFINITIVELY AT THIS TIME.
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